

State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Good afternoon, Senator Leone, Representative Baram, Senator Larson, Representative Kiner and members of the General Law Committee. I am here today to testify in support of H. B. 5782, AN ACT ALLOWING PHARMACISTS TO DISPENSE OR ADMINISTER AN OPIOID ANTAGONIST TO TREAT OR PREVENT A DRUG OVERDOSE.

Heroin and opioid abuse does not discriminate. It knows no political affiliation, does not care what sex, age, religion, race, socio-economic class or any other status that historically have been discriminated against.

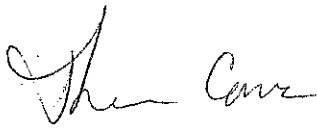
A year ago, I was like many of my colleagues...unaware of an epidemic that was infiltrating not only our great state, but the whole country. It was brought to my attention by the untimely death of a young college student. Since then, many individuals have forward to tell me their story. There is always a variation, but the one theme that remains constant is that not one of them sought out to be a heroin addict. Too often, the use of prescription opioids such as Percocet lead to illegal street purchasing and, when that becomes too cost prohibitive, heroin is the cheap alternative.

HB 5782 is one of several bills that I submitted that will be a tool in the battle of opioid addiction. Naloxone, or narcan, is an opioid antagonist that works to reverse the effects of opioids. Nalaxone is not addictive and has little side effects, as compared to other self-administered drugs such as an epi pen.

This legislation will allow pharmacists to dispense certain opioid antagonist drugs without a prescription, which could be done through a state-approved protocol or collaborative practice agreements, such is what currently allows pharmacist's to administer certain vaccines. Our neighboring states such as Rhode Island and Massachusetts have successfully implemented this program.

I urge you to support this life saving legislation and give family members or friends the ability to help keep their loved ones alive to have the opportunity to battle this disease.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Theresa Conroy".

Theresa Conroy

State Representative